

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

3

1. (Once amended) A process for producing alkyl esters useful in biofuels and lubricants by reacting glyceride- or free fatty acid- containing substances in a critical fluid medium, said process comprising the steps of:

(a) dissolving the glyceride- or free acid- containing substance and an alcohol or water into a critical fluid; and

(b) reacting the glyceride- or free fatty acid- containing substance with the alcohol or water in the presence of a catalyst to produce final products.

4

13. (Once amended) A process for producing alkyl esters useful in biofuels and lubricants by reacting a glyceride- containing substance in a critical fluid medium, said process comprising the steps of:

(a) dissolving a glyceride- containing substance and an alcohol or water into a critical fluid;

(b) reacting the glyceride- containing substance and the alcohol or water in a reactor in the presence of a catalyst to produce final products; and

(c) separating an alkyl ester product and a glycerol product from the reaction mixture.

15. (Once amended) A process for reacting fatty acids in a critical fluid medium, said process comprising the steps of:

(a) dissolving a fatty acid- containing substance and an alcohol or water into a critical fluid;

(b) reacting the fatty acid- containing substance and the alcohol or water in a reactor in the presence of a catalyst to produce final products; and

(c) separating an alcohol ester product and a glycerol product from the reaction mixture.